

PCB HIS 15-01

ORIGINAL

YEAR

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to state veterans' nursing homes;
 3 creating s. 296.42, F.S.; requiring the Department of
 4 Veterans' Affairs to contract for a study to determine
 5 the need for an additional state veterans' nursing
 6 home and the most appropriate county for the home;
 7 requiring the department to deliver the study to the
 8 Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the
 9 House of Representatives by a certain date;
 10 establishing criteria for ranking each county
 11 according to need; requiring the department to use the
 12 study to select new nursing home sites; requiring the
 13 department to use a previous study to select new
 14 nursing home sites prior to a certain date; providing
 15 for expiration of the section on July 1, 2020, unless
 16 reviewed and saved by repeal by the Legislature prior
 17 to that date; providing an effective date.

18
 19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20
 21 Section 1. Section 296.42, Florida Statutes, is created to
 22 read:

23 296.42 Site selection process for state veterans' nursing
 24 homes.--

25 (1) The department shall contract for a study to determine
 26 the need for a new state veterans' nursing home and the most

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27 appropriate county based on the greatest level of need for
 28 construction of the nursing home. The department shall deliver
 29 the study to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
 30 Speaker of the House of Representatives by November 1, 2015.

31 (2) The study shall use the following criteria to rank each
 32 county according to need:

33 (a) The distance from the geographic center of the county
 34 to the nearest existing state veterans' nursing home;

35 (b) The number of veterans aged 65 years or older living
 36 in the county;

37 (c) The presence of an existing federal Veterans' Health
 38 Administration medical center or outpatient clinic in the
 39 county;

40 (d) Elements of emergency health care in the county, as
 41 determined by:

42 1. The number of general hospitals;

43 2. The number of emergency room holding beds per hospital;

44 and

45 3. The number of in-house physicians per hospital on staff
 46 in the emergency room 24 hours per day.

47 (e) The number of existing community nursing home beds per
 48 thousand elderly male residents of the county;

49 (f) The presence of an accredited education institution
 50 offering health care programs in the county; and

51 (g) The county poverty rate.

52 (3) The department shall use the study ranking to select

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53 each new state veterans' nursing home site authorized prior to
 54 July 1, 2020, subject to approval by the Governor and Cabinet.
 55 For each new nursing home, the department shall select the
 56 highest-ranked county in the study which does not have a
 57 veterans' nursing home. If the highest ranked county cannot
 58 serve as the site, the department shall select the next highest
 59 ranked county. Prior to November 1, 2015, the department shall
 60 use the 2014 Site Selection Study to select a county for any new
 61 state veterans' nursing home.

62 (4) This section shall expire on July 1, 2020, unless
 63 reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the
 64 Legislature before that date.

65 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.
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